

Perfect Subjunctive

Spanish · British English › Spanish

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The Present Perfect Subjunctive (Subjuntivo Perfecto)

Welcome, Spanish learners! Today, we're diving into one of the most important tenses in the subjunctive mood – the **Present Perfect Subjunctive (Subjuntivo Perfecto)**. This tense is used to talk about **actions completed in the past** that have a connection to the present, but always within a context of **uncertainty, doubt, emotions, wishes, or opinions**. Remember, the Subjunctive always expresses a subjective viewpoint!

How do we form it? It's straightforward! We need two elements: the **auxiliary verb HABER in the Present Subjunctive** and the **past participle (participio pasado)** of the main verb. The past participle is always invariable (it doesn't change for gender or number) and ends in **-ado** for **-AR** verbs, and **-ido** for **-ER** and **-IR** verbs (plus those irregular forms you're already familiar with!).

Subject + **haber** (Present Subjunctive) + **past participle**

Person	Haber (Present Subjunctive)	Past Participle
yo	haya	hablado / comido / vivido
tú	hayas	hablado / comido / vivido
él/ella/usted	haya	hablado / comido / vivido
nosotros/as	hayamos	hablado / comido / vivido
vosotros/as	hayáis	hablado / comido / vivido
ellos/ellas/ustedes	hayan	hablado / comido / vivido

- Expressing **doubt, uncertainty, or probability** about a completed action in the past or one that has an effect on the present:
 - Dudo que ella haya llegado ya.* (I doubt she has arrived yet.)
- Expressing **emotions, feelings, or wishes** regarding a completed action:
 - Me alegro de que hayas aprobado el examen.* (I'm glad you passed the exam.)
- In subordinate temporal clauses after conjunctions such as *cuando* (*when*), *antes de que* (*before*), *hasta que* (*until*), or *después de que* (*after*), when they refer to a **future, completed action** from the perspective of the main clause:
 - Te llamaré cuando haya terminado mi trabajo.* (I'll call you when I've finished my work.)

Espero que hayas tenido un buen día.

I hope you've had a good day.

Me sorprende que no hayan llegado aún.

It surprises me that they haven't arrived yet.

Watch out for common pitfalls! Don't confuse the Present Perfect Subjunctive with the Present Perfect Indicative (e.g., *he comido*). The indicative mood expresses certainty, while the subjunctive mood conveys doubt or emotion. Also, remember those **irregular past participles**, such as *hecho* (*hacer*), *visto* (*ver*), *dicho*

(decir), vuelto (volver), abierto (abrir), puesto (poner), and resuelto (resolver). You'll need to learn them by heart!

Memory trick: Think of the Present Perfect Subjunctive as 'the past in present uncertainty'. It's like saying 'HAYA + DONE'. Something has happened, but I'm feeling something about it, doubting it, or wishing it had happened (or hadn't).

Practise regularly, and the Present Perfect Subjunctive will become second nature to you! Good luck!

Part 1 — Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. No creo que ya _____ el problema.

I don't think they have solved the problem yet.

- A) hayan resuelto B) resuelvan C) han resuelto D) hubieran resuelto

2. Ojalá _____ las llaves antes de salir.

If only we had found the keys before we left.

- A) hayamos encontrado B) hubiéramos encontrado C) encontramos D) habíamos encontrado

3. Es bueno que _____ tu pasión.

It's good that you discovered your passion.

- A) has descubierto B) descubras C) hubieras descubierto D) hayas descubierto

4. Me alegra que _____ nuestra opinión en la reunión.

I'm glad that we have given our opinion at the meeting.

- A) hayamos dado B) demos C) hubiéramos dado D) hemos dado

5. Es posible que ella _____ el libro entero.

It is possible that she read the whole book.

- A) hubiera leído B) haya leído C) lea D) ha leído

6. Es posible que _____ la decisión correcta al final.

It is possible that they have made the right decision in the end.

- A) han tomado B) tomaron C) hayan tomado D) hubieron tomado

7. Es una pena que _____ la oportunidad.

It's a shame you lost the opportunity.

- A) perdáis B) habéis perdido C) hubierais perdido D) hayáis perdido

8. No creo que ya _____ la solución.

I don't think they have found the solution yet.

- A) hubieran encontrado B) encuentren C) hayan encontrado D) han encontrado

Part 2 — Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. Es bueno que os _____ juntos en la fiesta.

It's good that you have sat together at the party.

2. Dudo que ya _____ el paquete; lo envié ayer.

I doubt they have received the parcel yet; I only sent it yesterday.

3. No creo que anoche _____ al concierto sin avisar.

I don't think they went to the concert last night without telling anyone.

4. Es posible que _____ el ordenador sin querer.

It's possible that they have broken the computer by accident.

5. No creo que ellos _____ este libro; es demasiado bueno.

I don't think they wrote this book; it's too good.

6. No creo que _____ un libro tan bueno.

I don't think they wrote such a good book.

Part 3 – Translate

Write each word in Spanish on the line.

1. to have gone › _____

2. to have done › _____

3. to fall › _____

4. to meet › _____

5. to arrive › _____

6. to build › _____

Part 4 – Match the pairs

Write the letter of the matching translation next to each term.

Term	Translation
1. cubrir	A to attend
2. haber aceptado	B to feel
3. correr	C to learn
4. traer	D to cover
5. sentir	E to run
6. asistir	F to finish
7. aprender	G to have accepted
8. terminar	H to bring

Answer Key

Part 1 – Choose the correct word

1. A) hayan resuelto
2. B) hubiéramos encontrado
3. D) hayas descubierto
4. A) hayamos dado
5. B) haya leído
6. C) hayan tomado
7. D) hayáis perdido
8. C) hayan encontrado

Part 2 – Fill in the gap

1. hayáis sentado
2. hayan recibido
3. hayan ido
4. hayan roto
5. hayan escrito
6. hayan escrito

Part 3 – Translate

1. haber ido
2. haber hecho
3. caer
4. conocer
5. llegar
6. construir

Part 4 – Match the pairs

1. D (to cover)
2. G (to have accepted)
3. E (to run)
4. H (to bring)
5. B (to feel)
6. A (to attend)
7. C (to learn)
8. F (to finish)